

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for annotating a computer program, the method comprising:

displaying program code for the computer program in a user interface comprising a code display window;

linking at least one element of said displayed program code to a data file, said data file comprising implementation instructions for said at least one element of the computer program; and

responsive to a query of one of said at least one linked element of the computer program, displaying a corresponding implementation instruction for said queried element in said user interface.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein said step of displaying program code in said code display window further comprises displaying said program code in a text editor viewable within said code display window.

3. The method according to claim 2, further comprising responsive to said query of one of said at least one linked element, inputting an implementation instruction for said queried element in said implementation display window.

4. The method according to claim 3, further comprising storing said inputted implementation instruction in said data file.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein said step of displaying said corresponding implementation instruction further comprises displaying said corresponding implementation instruction in an implementation display window of said user interface.

6. The method according to claim 3, wherein said step of displaying said corresponding implementation instruction further comprises the step of displaying said implementation instruction in said implementation display window of said user interface without obscuring the program code.

7. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of initiating said query of one of said at least one linked element by selecting said linked element displayed in said code display window.

8. The method according to claim 1, wherein said step of displaying said implementation instruction further comprises displaying an implementation instruction selected from the group consisting of program code comments, modified program code, a code execution directive, a compilation directive, and an assembly directive.

9. The method according to claim 1, wherein said at least one element is selected from the group consisting of functions, variables, and expressions.

10. A computer code development system for annotating computer program code, the system comprising:

a user interface having a code display window for displaying computer program code;

an editor for editing displayed computer program code in said code display window; and

a data file comprising at least one implementation instruction linked to at least one element of the computer program code.

11. The computer code development system according to claim 10, wherein said user interface further comprises an implementation display window for displaying said at least one implementation instruction.

12. The computer code development system according to claim 10, further comprising a linker, said linker for linking said at least one program code element to said at least one implementation instruction in said data file.

13. The computer code development system according to claim 10, wherein said at least one element of the computer program code is selected from the group consisting of functions, variables, grouped functions, grouped variables, expressions, implementation instructions and any combination thereof.

14. The computer code development system according to claim 10, wherein said implementation development window is a pop-up window accessible by selecting at least one of said at least one element of the computer program code from said code display window.

15. The computer code development system according to claim 14, wherein said implementation development window and said code display window are concurrently viewable.

16. The computer code development system according to claim 10, wherein said implementation development window does not obscure said code display window when concurrently viewed.

17. A user interface for annotating computer program code, the user interface comprising:

- a code display window for displaying the computer program code, said code display window having an editor for editing the computer program code;

- an associated data file comprising at least one implementation instruction linked to at least one element of the computer program code; and

- an implementation instruction window for displaying said at least one implementation instruction in said data file.

18. The user interface according to claim 17, further comprising a linker for linking said at least one program code element to said at least one implementation instruction in said data file.

19. The user interface according to claim 18, wherein said implementation development window and said code display window are concurrently viewable.

20. The user interface according to claim 19, wherein said implementation development window can be configured so that said code display window and said implementation development window can be completely viewed when concurrently displayed.

21. The user interface according to claim 19, wherein said implementation development window can be configured so that said code display window is partially obscured by said implementation development window when concurrently displayed.

22. A machine readable storage having stored thereon, a computer program having a plurality of code sections, said code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

displaying program code for the computer program in a user interface comprising a code display window for annotating a computer program;

linking at least one element of said displayed program code to a data file, said data file comprising implementation instructions for said at least one element of the computer program; and

responsive to a query of one of said at least one linked element of the computer program, displaying a corresponding implementation instruction for said queried element in said user interface.

23. The machine readable storage according to claim 22, wherein said step of displaying program code in said code display window further comprises displaying said program code in a text editor viewable within said code display window.

24. The machine readable storage according to claim 23, further comprising responsive to said query of one of said at least one linked element, inputting an implementation instruction for said queried element in said implementation display window.

25. The machine readable storage according to claim 24, further comprising storing said inputted implementation instruction in said data file.

26. The machine readable storage according to claim 22, wherein said step of displaying said corresponding implementation instruction further comprises displaying said corresponding implementation instruction in an implementation display window of said user interface.

27. The machine readable storage according to claim 24, wherein said step of displaying said corresponding implementation instruction further comprises the step of displaying said implementation instruction in said implementation display window of said user interface without obscuring the program code.

28. The machine readable storage according to claim 22, further comprising the step of initiating said query of one of said at least one linked element by selecting said linked element displayed in said code display window.

29. The machine readable storage according to claim 22, wherein said step of displaying said implementation

instruction further comprises displaying an implementation instruction selected from the group consisting of program code comments, modified program code, a code execution directive, a compilation directive, and an assembly directive.

30. The machine readable storage according to claim 22, wherein said at least one element is selected from the group consisting of functions, variables and expressions.

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